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The Russian flagship Dimitri Donskoi attended by the Rynda cast anchor in Boston Harbor on June 26th. The flagship is the largest warship that ever came into this port. They were present at the unveiling of the Farragut statue on Wednesday afternoon the 28th ult. It is fortunate for Boston that they are here on a peace mission.

Much loss has resulted from the floods on the Mississippi. Many plantations have been under water, on account of breaks in the levees. One million dollars will not more than cover the damage.

The Infanta Eulalie left New York on the 23d of June, to return to Spain. She expressed herself as greatly pleased with the United States and with the cordial reception with which she everywhere met.

NEW BOOKS.

Harper and Brothers have just published a new work entitled "The Armies of To-day." It contains an account of the strength and organization of the armies of the United States and Mexico in America, and of the armies of Great Britain, Germany, France, Russia, Austria and Italy in the old world. The account of each of these armies is written by an officer of the said army. The work is illustrated by about one hundred engravings, touching nearly every phase of military life and equipment. It is finely executed in every way, and contains a great amount of valuable information for those who wish to inform themselves as to the state of the armies of the leading nations of the world.

The book is of course written from the standpoint of the military man who believes in war, and has all the faults of judgment arising from this view. Besides giving, with one exception, a careful and full account of their respective armies, these officers go out of their way to advocate the further development and increase of the armies or their maintenance at the present standard. From this standpoint the book will have its influence in keeping alive and fostering the spirit of militarism which is doing so much to ruin the nations, especially of Europe. This we greatly regret.

For example, Brigadier-General Merritt of the U. S. army writes thus: "From whatever point of view the operations of the army are discussed, whether as a force to defend the country against foes from without, to fight Indians and compel their obedience to the laws of civilization or to maintain the domestic peace of the nation, one fact is prominent above all others, and that is that our army has not been, and is not now, of adequate strength. The changes which have taken place in the science of war render an increase imperative." If this increase in our army begins, where will it stop? Every one who has looked into the rivalry of armaments over the sea knows that if we once set out in this perilous course there will be no stopping till we have placed ourselves on a par with the European nations. This will mean five to ten millions of trained men of war with all the attendant burdens of taxation. Our people will much prefer to adhere to our historic policy of having no standing army worth mentioning, a policy in the following of which

we have built up the greatest and strongest and most respected nation on the face of the globe. We can not reverse this historic policy without great peril to our liberties and our Christian civilization.

General Wolseley describes the English army. His views are well known, and he takes up much of his time in this article in advocating various reforms which he wishes to see introduced into the English army.

Lieutenant-Colonel Exner gives an interesting and faithful estimate of the strength and manner of organization of the German army. He is careful to say that it is inferior in size to the French army, and in a general article at the close of the book, on the military situation in Europe, he maintains that "it is the sword alone which now keeps the sword in its scabbard." "There is no stop that would not be identical with regress." This supplementary article gives valuable information as to the armies of many of the smaller European states.

In the description of the French army General Lewal speaks in glowing terms of its history, of its love of adventure, of its many brilliant successes, of its rapid reorganization since the disasters of 1870, etc. One would think, from this reading, that the old French love of glory by arms is as intense as ever, but this is not true. The old spirit is dying out, and there is no doubt that France to-day would be glad to join a general movement for disarmament, if she could see such a thing seriously undertaken.

The Russian, Austrian and Italian armies are described in the same *ex parte* way. Thus the book is not simply a plain statistical description of the armies of to-day, but a series of essays in which the figures are only an excuse for the setting forth of national characteristics, national military pride and of the necessity of keeping the national military organization up to the highest point of efficiency. Whether the publishers intend it to be so or not, "The Armies of To-day" is essentially a war book, maintaining and glorying in the old barbaric system of killing, which is totally out of harmony with the Christian civilization of our time, and whose existence in the midst of this civilization is a palpable contradiction.

It is difficult from this book to give any accurate statement of the size of the various armies in 1893. Most of the estimates are for two or three years ago. The essay on the French army gives no figures at all, but a poetic description of marches and manoeuvres calculated to impress upon the reader the splendid discipline and heroic endurance of the French troops. The following table taken from the essay on the German army is a good and accurate comparative estimate of the military strength in time of peace of the five great nations of continental Europe for 1890:

| | Battalions | Squadrons | Field |
|-------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| | Infantry. | Cavalry. | Batteries. |
| Russia. | 1029 | 687 | 405 |
| France | 561 | 420 | 480 |
| Germany | 538 | 465 | 434 |
| Austro-Hungary. | 458 | 252 | 241 |
| Italy | 346 | 144 | 207 |

The battalions have something less than a thousand men and the squadrons about one hundred and fifty horse.

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ence in the neighborhood of the Gold Coast. Referred to a Joint Commission, whose agreement was ratified by both countries.